

Tonya L. Riley



Basic trainees line up for their first taste of Army chow at Fort Sill's Philip A. Connelly award-winning Green Hall dining facility.

Fort Sill, Okla.

Upper-crust Cooking Takes the Prize

THE Army's top dining facility for 2000 is the 95th Adjutant General Reception Battalion's Green Hall.

In the annual Department of the Army Philip A. Connelly competition, sponsored by the International Food Service Executives Association, judges compared Green Hall with other dining facilities that were tops in their major commands and had the same mission size. The team visited Fort Sill in mid-October with a thick safety, service and facility checklist—and an appetite. Winners were announced in January.

The dining facility is operated by contractor Cantu Ser-

vices Inc. Jeanie Jones, the dining facility manager, said the facility serves an average of 2,100 meals daily to initial-entry-training soldiers—and some extras from other units who stop in regularly for the hall's great meals.

CW2 Robert Sparks, the Field Artillery Training Center's brigade food adviser, attributed the dining facility's winning performance to focused training and friendly attitude, plus strong support from Cantu's corporate headquarters, which ensured that crews were fully staffed and even provided new uniforms for the competition.

Sparks said the Connelly Cup was presented to the winners in March at the IFSEA convention in Anaheim, Calif. — *Tonya L. Riley, Fort Sill Public Affairs Office*

Atlanta, Idaho

Engineers Defend Against Expected Flood

DEVASTATING fires that ravaged Idaho forests last summer left communities such as Atlanta exposed to possible spring floods when snowpacks melted in the Sawtooth Mountains.

Virtually all the protective vegetation that absorbs runoff and slows potentially destructive water was lost to the flames. This mountain community northeast of Boise sits right in the path of Quartz Creek as it comes downhill, fans out and drains into the Boise River. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Walla Walla District Emergency Management Office dispatched one of its staff to oversee con-

struction intended to lessen the potential impact of the spring runoff.

"Contractors installed several 'trash racks' to block debris in the stream bed and improved water passage by tearing out old culverts and replacing them with larger, new ones to better manage the volume," said Herb Bessey, a Walla Walla District Operations Division member.

The effort he oversaw was a \$106,000 investment to protect lives and make homes, businesses, and civic, government and historic structures safe from the creek as it flows through town this spring carrying runoff volumes as much as three times that which were routinely expected before the summer fires.

Other efforts to protect the town include work by the U.S. Forest Service to restore natural growth claimed in the fires, Bessey said. — *USACE Walla Walla District PAO*

Rochester, Minn.

Soldiers Deploy to Middle East

THE 10th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm had a special significance for the Minnesota Army National Guard's Company B, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry, as 68 of its soldiers deployed to Saudi Arabia and 34 others deployed to Kuwait in January. The teams will perform security operations at Army Patriot missile sites as part of the ongoing peacekeeping mission in the Middle East.

"It's with mixed emotions we send you off," Gov. Jesse Ventura told the soldiers before their departure. "But this is what you've trained for. Now it's time to go and do your job."

Ventura also presented the teams with two Minnesota flags

to be flown over the stations where the units are performing their missions.

The deploying soldiers included students putting their educations on hold and workers from all career fields, said MG Eugene Andreotti, the state's adjutant general.

"I wanted the feeling of accomplishment," said SPC Lam Chu, explaining why he left school two semesters short of a law-enforcement degree to volunteer for the deployment.

Chu fled Vietnam in the 1970s with his two brothers. He said serving in the Middle East will give him a common bond with his brother, Danh Chu, who served in the Gulf War.

SPC Greg Bohn said that, before the deployment, he took a week off from his job to spend time with his wife and children. Bohn's wife, Janice, said they will keep in touch via e-mail.

The soldiers of Co. B are from Guard units around the state, including Rochester, West St. Paul, Winona,

Mankato, Owatonna and Albert Lea. — *MSG Judy Ojard and SPC Anna Lewicki, Minnesota National Guard*

Aberdeen Proving Ground

APG Employment Programs Honored

MARYLAND's Harford County has selected the Developmental Test Command, here, as its public-sector 2000 "Employer of the Year" because of its programs to employ disabled people. The DTC and the Army's Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine at APG were among several organizations county officials lauded for having inclusive employment programs.

The employment of disabled people has resulted in large part from the public-awareness efforts of organizations such as The Arc, a not-for-profit volunteer organization that provides advocacy and support services to adults and children with developmental disabilities. The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region in Aberdeen, Md., has been providing such services for Harford County since the program was founded in 1953.

The organization has long provided work opportunities through a regional workshop facility, but workshop employees wanted a chance to work in the larger community. Arc job developers sought employment opportunities in surrounding communities, and their efforts were so successful that the



COL Ann Coleman

SFC Berta Guerra demonstrates proper airway management during a skills portion of the TraumaAIMS course developed by the 5th Bde. (Health Science) in San Antonio.

workshop program was discontinued in 1998.

Judy Matthews, who leads the Information Services Team at DTC, attributes the success of its program, which employs several disabled people, to Arc staff members who have worked closely with DTC.

"Job coaches came in and learned the job first, then taught the jobs to people who can't read or who use wheelchairs," Matthews said. "I'll admit, I was the biggest skeptic at first, but I would now encourage everyone seeking employees to perform routine, daily functions to look into these types of programs." — *Mike Cast, DTC PAO*

Camp Robinson, Ark.

5th Bde. Offers Trauma Course

IN October, soldiers holding a 91B or 91C Military Occupational Specialty will be reclassified to the new Army Health Care Specialist, MOS 91W. The Army Reserve's 5th Brigade

(Health Science) in San Antonio, Texas, has been tasked with developing courses to accomplish the reclassification within the reserve component.

The TraumaAIMS course is one step in the reclassification process. The course provides 68 hours of advanced trauma-skills training that emphasize airway management, intravenous infusion, medication-pharmacology and shock-intervention procedures. Students will receive both classroom and practical experience.

The initial TraumaAIMS course for Reservists was presented here in October 2000, but once the curriculum is finalized, the course will be expanded to additional sites within Region F, which includes New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska.

For more information about the course, visit the brigade's website at www.usarc.army.mil/95thdiv/5Bde/HHD. — *COL Ann Coleman, 5th Bde. 95th Div., USAR*



SPC Anna Lewicki

SPC Lam Chu of the 135th Infantry says goodbye to his son before the Guard unit's departure for the Middle East.